

VZCZCXRO6496
RR RUEHIK
DE RUEHAH #0114 0250727
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 250727Z JAN 10
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4118
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 6159
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 3844
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3703
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4403
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1435
RHMCSUU/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 4328
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC

UNCLAS ASHGABAT 000114

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [SOCI](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: FOOD PRICES GENERALLY STABLE

11. (U) Sensitive but unclassified. Not for Public Internet.

12. (U) A recent price check for basic food items at the local market revealed that prices for locally produced food items have not changed, but remained high since August 2009. Prices for imported food items fell since last August, in part due to price fluctuations on the global market.

Food Item	Jan 2010 DTM	Aug 2009 DTM	% change
Bread (average price for one loaf)	1.60 (\$.56)	1.60	0
Flour (1 kg)	1.80 (\$.63)	1.80	0
Rice (1 kg)	5.00 (\$1.75)	5.00	0
Butter (1 kg)	12.00 (\$4.20)	15.00 (\$5.30)	-20
Veg. Oil (1 lit)	4.20 (\$1.50)	4.20	0
Sugar (1 kg)	3.00 (\$1.05)	2.80 (\$.99)	+14
Beef (1 kg)	10.00 (\$3.50)	10.00	0
Chicken (1 kg)	10.00 (\$3.50)	10.00	0
Milk (1 lit)	2.40 (\$.86)	2.40	0
Cheese (1 kg)	20.00 (\$7)	26.00 (\$9.15)	-23
Eggs (ten)	5.00 (\$1.75)	5.00	0

13. (SBU) As the above table shows, prices for imported dairy products dropped between 20 to 23 percent. It is possible that this price decrease is an attempt to unload goods that are nearing their expiration date. Embassy officers have noticed that expiration dates on

most of the boxed, long-life milk being sold in stores now are the same as the expiration dates on milk that was being sold in August. An increase in the price of sugar on the global market resulted in the increase of its price on the local market.

¶4. (SBU) Bread prices are officially subsidized if purchased at government-run bakeries, but the supply for sale is limited. The price for bread at the market is three to ten times higher than the government bakery price. Beef and chicken are the only food items subject to government-imposed price ceilings.

¶5. (SBU) COMMENT: Following the president's decree on the ten percent wage increase effective January 1, 2010 locals expected an increase in food prices. This has not happened yet, but might happen February, when local people will receive their first increased paychecks. END COMMENT.